

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4571
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2005
IMPROVEMENT IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the agricultural sector during 2005-06;
- (b) whether launching of horticulture mission and a new weather insurance scheme will be more beneficial for this sector; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):

(a) The Annual Plan for the year 2005-06 contains several major new initiatives as also the ongoing schemes to increase agricultural production and productivity. These inter-alia include:

- (i) National Horticulture Mission including Technology Mission on Horticulture in North Eastern Region, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, and Uttaranchal;
- (ii) Micro irrigation;
- (iii) National Mission on Bamboo;
- (iv) Enhancing Sustainability of Dryland/ Rainfed farming Systems;
- (v) Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme;
- (vi) National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and
- (vii) Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (iSOPOM).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. National Horticulture Mission envisages to double the horticulture production to 300 million tonnes by 2011-12 through appropriate interventions from the stages of research to production, post harvest management and marketing.

Weather insurance scheme ensures timely payment to farmers. It is also easy to implement and less prone to misuse.